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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/805,791	03/14/2001	John Eugene Planalp	8381/PRGA 0102 PUSP	2817

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THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY
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EXAMINER

THAI, HANH B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2171

DATE MAILED: 04/10/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/805,791

Applicant(s)

PLANALP ET AL.

Examiner

Hanh B Thai

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 March 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-72 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-72 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 March 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2. 6) ☐ Other: _____

This is in response to the application filed March 14, 2001 in which claims 1-72 are presented for examination.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-72 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Turnbull (U. S. Patent no. 5,208,765) in view of Bowman-Amuah (U. S. Patent no. 6,438,594).

Regarding claims 1, 13-14, 31 and 55, Turnbull discloses a method for managing product development (Fig. 6), the method comprising:

- storing technical requirements data for a product including product data (500, Fig. 6, Turnbull), material data, and packaging data (510, Fig. 6) in a structured relational database (see Fig. 1, Turnbull);
- linking unstructured documents (col. 24, lines 28-38, Turnbull) to the technical requirements data within the structured relational database (see 100, Fig. 2, Turnbull);
- grouping technical requirements data into technical requirements summaries to define a finished product (see Fig. 1, Turnbull); product control matrix (100, Fig. 1) has a multiplicity of stages containing requirements and that corresponds to the summary of requirements;

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- recording changes made to the technical requirements data and associated user identification information (see col.2, lines 30-34, Turnbull);
- storing approval information for the technical requirements data in the relational database (100, Fig.1 and Fig.2, Turnbull); and
- electronically communicating approved technical requirements data for use in manufacturing and distributing the finished product (see col. 8, lines 3-35, Turnbull).

Turnbull, however, does not explicitly disclose searchability among related technical requirements summaries. Bowman-Amuah, on the other hand, discloses a search for documents (see col. 57, lines 24-45, Bowman-Amuah). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include a search among related technical requirements summaries. The motivation of doing so would have been to enhance the flexibility of the search management system.

Regarding claims 2, 32 and 56, Turnbull/Bowman-Amuah combination further discloses an electronic signature which uniquely identifies a user (see col. 4, lines 29-31, Turnbull).

Regarding claims 3, 33 and 57, Turnbull/Bowman-Amuah combination further discloses the step of linking unstructured documents comprises associating structured attributes with the unstructured documents and storing the associated structured attributes in the relational database (see col. 55, lines 47-59, Bowman-Amuah).

Regarding claims 4 and 58, Turnbull/Bowman-Amuah combination further discloses validating the technical requirements data during entry relative to previously entered technical requirements data based on predetermined rules (see col. 7, lines 4-16, Turnbull).

Regarding claims 5-7, 34-36, 59-61 and 67, Turnbull/Bowman-Amuah combination further discloses the technical requirements summaries include at least two levels of summaries, the method further comprising: storing separate approval information for each level of technical requirements summaries (104, Fig.1, Turnbull).

Regarding claims 8, 16, 37, 42, 62 and 69, Turnbull/Bowman-Amuah combination further discloses the technical requirements summaries include a formula card, a raw material specification, a packing standard, a packaging material specification, a supplier approval, and an approved country matrix (see col. 143, lines 35-43, Bowman-Amuah).

Regarding claims 9, 38 and 63, Turnbull/Bowman-Amuah combination further discloses the limiting access to subsets of technical requirements data based on a user identification and password (see col.57, lines3-10, Bowman-Amuah).

Regarding claims 10, 39 and 64, Turnbull/Bowman-Amuah combination further discloses the step of grouping technical requirements data comprises grouping data to form different technical requirements summaries based on requirements or practices of a particular geographic region (see col. 14, lines 17-23, Turnbull).

Regarding claims 11 and 65, Turnbull/Bowman-Amuah combination further discloses the step of grouping technical requirements data comprises combining different technical requirements data to form technical requirements summaries based on requirements or practices of business units within an organization (see col. 161, lines 36-42, Bowman-Amuah).

Regarding claims 12, 15, 40-41, 66 and 68, Turnbull/Bowman-Amuah combination further discloses the step of storing technical requirements data comprises:

storing draft, approved, and archived versions of the technical requirements data; and

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linking the draft, approved, and archived versions of the technical requirements within the relational database (see col. 56, lines 18-23, Bowman-Amuah).

Regarding claims 17, 43 and 70, Turnbull/Bowman-Amuah combination further discloses the step of grouping technical requirements data into technical requirements summaries comprises grouping package components, package amounts, in-process package measures, and finished package measures into a packing standard (see col. 186, lines 1-13, Bowman-Amuah).

Regarding claims 18-25, 44-49 and 71-72, Turnbull/Bowman-Amuah combination further discloses consumer level data, customer level data, Bowman-Amuah), and transport level data (see col. 192, lines 28-38, Bowman-Amuah).

Regarding claims 26 and 50, Turnbull/Bowman-Amuah combination further discloses the step of grouping technical requirements data into technical requirements summaries comprises grouping raw material data by approved supplier (see col. 206, lines 27-34, Bowman-Amuah).

Regarding claims 27 and 51, Turnbull/Bowman-Amuah combination further discloses the step of grouping technical requirements data into technical requirements summaries comprises grouping finished products by approved country of sale (see col. 17, lines 50-67, Bowman-Amuah).

Regarding claims 28 and 52, Turnbull/Bowman-Amuah combination further discloses the step of linking unstructured documents comprises linking text documents to the technical requirements data (see col. 6, lines 63-68, Turnbull).

Regarding claims 29 and 53, Turnbull/Bowman-Amuah combination further discloses the text documents specify test methods, process standards, general standards, standard operating procedures, or recommended procedures (see col.7, lines 4-16, Turnbull).

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Regarding claims 30 and 54, Turnbull/Bowman-Amuah combination further discloses the step of linking unstructured documents comprises linking artwork for product packaging to the technical requirements data (see col. 7, lines 27-36, Turnbull).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hanh B Thai whose telephone number is 703-305-4883. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 703-308-1436. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-9099 for regular communications and 703-746-7240 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Hanh Thai *HT*
Art Unit 2171
April 3, 2003


SAFET METJAHIC
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100